

Wilmington, Delaware
April 2, 2009

#3136

Sponsor:

Council
Member
Kelley

Co-Sponsors

Council
Members
Potter
Congo
Shabazz
Prado
Martelli
Brown
Freel
Walsh
Wright

Council
President
Griffiths

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Wilmington wishes to join with the House of Representatives of the 145th General Assembly in urging the United States Congress to enact the Employee Free Choice Act; and

WHEREAS, in 1935, the United States established, by law, that workers must be free to form unions; and

WHEREAS, the freedom to form or join a union is internationally recognized by the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a fundamental human right; and

WHEREAS, the free choice to join with others and bargain for better wages and benefits is essential to economic opportunity and good living standards; and

WHEREAS, unions benefit communities by strengthening living standards, stabilizing tax bases, promoting equal treatment and enhancing civic participation; and

WHEREAS, states in which more people are union members are states with higher wages, better benefits and better schools; and

WHEREAS, union workers receive better wages and benefits, with union workers earning 29 percent more than workers without a union, 35 percent more likely to have access to health insurance, and they are four times more likely to have access to a guaranteed defined-benefit pension; and

WHEREAS, employers often refuse to bargain fairly with workers after forming a union by delaying first contract bargaining for up to two years in 45 percent of successful campaigns; and

WHEREAS, the Employee Free Choice Act has been introduced in the U.S. Congress in order to restore workers' freedom to join a union; and

WHEREAS, the Employee Free Choice Act will safeguard workers' ability to make their own decisions and provide for first contract mediation and arbitration, and establish meaningful penalties when employers violate workers' rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that the Council does hereby express its support for the Employee Free Choice Act which would authorize the National Labor Relations Board to certify a union as the bargaining representative when the majority of employees voluntarily sign authorizations designating that union to represent them; provide for first contract mediation and arbitration; and establish meaningful penalties for violations of a worker's freedom to choose a union.

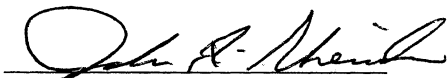
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Wilmington hereby urges Congress to enact the Employee Free Choice Act to protect and preserve for America's workers their freedom to choose for themselves whether or not to form a union.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby directed to forward copies of this Resolution to each member of Delaware's Congressional Delegation and to the Speaker of the Delaware House of Representatives and to the President pro tempore of the Delaware State Senate, and to each member of the Wilmington Delegation to the Delaware House of Representatives and the Delaware Senate.

Passed by City Council,
April 2, 2009


City Clerk

Approved as to form this
31st day of March, 2009


City Solicitor

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution hereby urges Congress to enact the Employee Free Choice Act to protect and preserve for America's workers their freedom to choose for themselves whether or not to form a union.